of Chhattisgarh and the matter was enquired by the Employment Guarantee Commissioner, Chhattisgarh. The inquiry report has been received from the State Government informing that the Collector, Kanker, has been removed and the concerned CEO, Zilla Panchayat has been suspended. The Chief Executive Officers of the Block Panchayats in which pesticides and fertilizers were purchased from NREGS funds, Deputy Director, Agriculture, who gave technical sanction by including "land treatment" under "land development" and one APO of the Zilla Panchayat have also been suspended. The State Government has also informed that the amount spent on purchase of pesticides and fertilizers in Kanker will not be charged under the NREGA and such expenditure will be booked under other agriculture schemes run by the State Government. The Ministry had also deputed a National Level Monitor to the district to conduct an inquiry. NLM has submitted his report which has been shared with the State Government. The Central Government had also requested the C&G to conduotan audit in the district

Wages not paid through bank/post office to rural labourers

t l378. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

whether Government is aware that the rural labourers are not being paid through bank/post office as a result of which they do not get full wages;

whether his Ministry had held discussions with the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Communications in this regard;

if so, the details thereof;

whether any initiative has been taken in the matter at the level of Prime Minister's Office;

if so, the details thereof; and

(0 the steps being taken by Government to ensure that the rural labourers get full benefit for their hard work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) In order to ensure that the labourers get full wages for the work done by them, NREGA Guidelines provide that wages should be paid in a public place, with muster rolls being read out aloud and displayed at the time of payment. In case, wages are paid through the Bank/Post network, the details of wages paid should be made public. However, payment of wages through Banks/Post offices is not mandatory under the Act.

(b) to (f) Yes, Sir. Payment of wages under NREGA through workers accounts in post offices had been taken up with the Department of Posts. Department of Posts has requested all Heads of Circles to take prompt measures for operationalisation of the accounts of wage earners in the Post Offices. Ministry has issued instructions to State Governments for proper coordination with the Department of Posts. Department of Posts has advised their State Offices to cooperate with the State Government to enable early operationalisation of wage payment through NREGA workers accounts in post offices wherever possible and not to charge service charges.

Audit of remaining 138 districts under **NREGS**

1379. DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI: SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

t Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.